

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-21, drawn to a molded composite article; and

Group II, claims 22-24, drawn to a process of producing a molded composite article.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-21 directed to a molded composite article in response to the Requirement for Restriction.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II allegedly do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, according to the Examiner, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features.

The Applicants respond by noting that the various claims are so intertwined with each other that a special technical feature is presented under PCT Rule 13.2. In short, the inventions under restriction do present a special technical feature and, therefore, unity exists between the inventions.

With regard to an election of species, the Applicants hereby make the following election:

(1) Non-urethane-series thermoplastic resin. The Applicants elect resin (1b) (claim 1), specifically a resin comprising a polyamide component having an alicyclic ring (1b-1) (claim 2).

If further election is necessary, the Applicants elect an alicyclic polyamide-series resin (claim 4).

If the election of a thermoplastic polyurethane-series resin is required, the Applicants elect a polyester urethane elastomer (paragraph [0138]).

However, in direct response to the Requirement for Restriction, the Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-21 with traverse.

Favorable action on the claims herein is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Raymond C. Stewart, Registration No 21,066 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 4, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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